

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, OREP (ALBERT, CARL), UR, US

SUBJ: CODEL ALBERT MEETINGS WITH JEWISH DISSIDENTS

1. SUMMARY: CODEL ALBERT HELD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH JEWISH ACTIVISTS, BOTH IN MOSCOW AND IN LENINGRAD. CODEL MEMBERS RAISED EMIGRATION ISSUE IN PLENARY SESSION AND INDIVIDUALLY WITH PONAMAREV AND FIRST DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER PAPUTIN. BOTH CODEL AND ACTIVISTS SAY THAT THEY PLEASSED WITH THE SESSIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. CODEL ALBERT MEMBERS DISPLAYED THROUGHOUT TRIP GREAT INTEREST IN EMIGRATION MATTERS AND IN THE JEWISH QUESTION IN GENERAL. SPEAKER ALBERT HAD ASKED CONGRESSMAN YATES TO SERVE AS CODEL SPOKESMAN ON EMIGRATION MATTERS. SINCE ONE OF HIS CONSITITUENTS IS RELATED TO A LENINGRAD DISSIDENT, YATES AND SEVERAL OTHER CODEL MEMBERS MET WITH A DISSIDENT GROUP DURING LENINGRAD PORTION OF TRIP. YATES SUGGESTED THAT LENINGRAD JEWISH COMMUNITY SEEMED QUITE MOVED THAT CODEL SHOULD CONCERN ITSELF WITH LENINGRAD JEWS AND THEIR PROBLEMS (MOSCOW JEWS TOLD EMBOFF THAT THEY TOO APPRECIATED THIS GESTURE).

3. IN MOSCOW THERE WAS A MEETING BETWEEN THE CODEL AND APPROXIMATELY TWENTY MEMBER ACTIVIST DELEGATION
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EVENING OF AUGUST 10. THERE WAS A STRONG REPRESENTATION

FROM MOSCOW, BUT DELEGATION INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER CITIES. BOTH MAJOR ELEMENTS IN MOSCOW DISSIDENT COMMUNITY WERE REPRESENTED. NEARLY ALL MEMBERS OF CODEL ATTENDED MEETING AT LEAST SOME OF THE TIME. CODEL MEMBERS SAID HOW IMPORESSED THEY WERE WITH OBVIOUS SINCERITY AND DETERMINATION DISPLAYED BY THE DISSIDENTS. AS OCCURRED WITH CODEL HUMPHREY/SCOTT, CODEL WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH DISSIDENT WILLINGNESS TO SUBORDINATE THEIR PERSONAL INTERESTS TO THE GENERAL PROBLEM OF SECURING THE EXIT OF ALL SOVIET JEWS WISHING TO LEAVE. SEVERAL CODEL MEMBERS SAID THAT THEIR INTEREST IN THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN VERY MUCH INCREASED AS A RESULT OF THE MEETING.

4. SEVERAL MOSCOW DISSIDENTS TOLD US THEY FOUND TONE OF MEETING WITH CODEL MUCH WARMER THAN OCCURRED WITH CODEL HUMPHREY/SCOTT. THEY SAY THAT THEY REALIZE THAT MOST OF THE MEMBERS OF CODEL ALBERT ARE LESS INFLUENTIAL NATIONALLY AND HAVE LESS OF A REPUTATION FOR INTEREST IN THIS QUESTION THAN WAS CASE WITH MEMBERS OF SENATORIAL CODEL, BUT SAID THAT THEY WERE MOST IMPRESSED BY SEVERAL CONGRESSMEN TO INTEREST THEMSELVES IN THEIR PROBLEMS. DISSIDENT SOURCES HAVE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THE WARMTH AND FRIENDLINESS WHICH CHARACTERIZED MEETING WITH CODEL.

5. SUBJECT OF SOVIT JEWRY CAME UP IN OFFICIAL MEETING WITH SUPREME SOVIET (AND SPEAKER ALBERT REFERRED TO EMIGRATION ISSUE IN HIS TOAST AT SAPSO RECEPTION). CONGRESSMAN YATES MENTIONED EMIGRATION ISSUE TO PONOMAREV IN PRIVATE MEETING AND LATTER, OBVIOUSLY PREPARED, SUMMONED FIRST DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER PAPUTIN TO ATTEND MEETING. PONOMAREV AND PAPUTIN REHEARSED STANDARD SOVIET LINE: OVERWHELMING PERCENTAGE OF JEWS APPLYING TO LEAVE GETS OUT, ONLY REFUSLAS INVOLVE GENUINE STATE SECURITY PROBLEMS, REAL PROBLEM IS THAT MOST SOVIET JEWS DON'T WANT TO LEAVE. YATES SAID THAT HE ATTEMPTED TO REBUT THESE ARGUMENTS AND ASSERTED THAT HE ASKED CONFIDENTIAL

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PONOMAREV OUTRIGHT IF HE MIGHT DIRECTLY CORRESPOND WITH MVD. PAPUTIN AND PONOMAREV ASSENTED AND PONOMAREV EVEN SAID THAT ANY LIST OF NAMES OF ALLEGED REFUSLAS SUBMITTED BY CODEL WOULD BE INVESTIGATED. AT THAT JUNCTURE YATES APPARENTLY PRESENTED PAPUTIN WITH SEVERAL LISTS TOTALING IN ALL 800 OR 900 NAMES. PAPUTIN PROMISED YATES AN ANSWER BEFORE CODEL LEFT THE SOVIET UNION (THIS ANSWER HAS NOT YET BEEN

RECEIVED). (REP. FENWICK WAS ALSO AT MEETING,
PRESENTED APPARENTLY MUCH SHORTER LIST OF UKRAINIAN
POTENTIAL TRAVELERS INCLUDING MOROZ, AND GOT SAME
ANSWER.)

6. YATES AND BURTON HELD FINAL MEETING WITH SEVERAL
PROMINENT DISSIDENTS EVENING OF AUGUST 12. AT THIS
MEETING, CODEL DISSIDENTS WHO TOLD CONGRESSMEN THAT THEY FELT
THAT THEY HAD TAKEN THE RIGHT LINE. THEY REQUESTED THE
CONGRESSMEN TO KEEP UP THE PRESSURE ON SOVIET
AUTHORITIES, AND THE TWO CONGRESSMEN APPEARED
RECEPTIVE TO THIS ARGUMENT.
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